

## COMPARISON: CHRISTIANITY AND ISLAM

CHRISTIANITY	ISLAM
<p><i>The Nature of God:</i> The Christian God pursues a personal relationship with His worshipers. He extends His love and desires to receive love in return. He tells His followers to serve mankind and live a life of moral purity. Although the Christian God hates sin, He loves the sinner. He tempers His righteous wrath with mercy and grace.</p>	<p><i>The Nature of Allah:</i> The god of Islam is a remote God who cannot be known personally. He reveals his law but not himself. He a wrathful God, full of judgment and power, but lacking the attributes of holiness, love, purity and grace. He cannot be called 'father' and the orthodox Muslim is unable to say that "God is love."</p>
<p><i>Holy Scriptures:</i> The Bible was given by God, through the Holy Spirit, to more than 40 authors. These authors wrote during a 1600 year period from three continents in three languages. Incredibly, they tell the same story with perfect unity and harmony. In the Bible God reveals Himself and His will to mankind.</p>	<p><i>Holy Scriptures:</i> Muhammad said that the Qur'an was dictated to him by an angel. The Qur'an consists of Muhammad's revelations, customs, and folklore of the desert. Islam teaches that much of the Old and New Testaments have been perverted and that the Qur'an is the final revelation of God.</p>
<p><i>The Person and Work of Jesus Christ:</i> Jesus was proven to be God through His virgin birth, through His ministry of numerous healings and miracles, through His sinless life, through His death on the cross where He died for our sins, and finally, He is proven to be the Son of God through His resurrection from the dead. He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords who will return to the earth to establish a kingdom of righteousness, justice and peace.</p>	<p><i>The Person and Work of Jesus Christ:</i> Islam rejects the Christian doctrine of the Trinity and the divinity of Jesus. They deny that He is the Son of God and Savior of the world who died for the sins of mankind. They do believe Jesus is one of the prophets and is named 97 times in the Qur'an. According to sura 4:157, Islam denies the death and resurrection of Jesus, and say that Judas or another was his substitute on the cross. Islam puts a curse on all who confess Jesus as Lord (sura 9:30).</p>
<p><i>Sin and Salvation:</i> Christianity teaches that mankind was created without sin by God. Because of the sin of the first man, Adam (Gen 3), all of mankind is born with a sin nature called 'original sin'. Salvation from sin is a gift from God for everyone and is available by grace, not works, through faith in Jesus Christ.</p>	<p><i>Sin and Salvation:</i> Islam does not believe in the concept of 'original sin'. No one can take away sin or die for another's sin. There is no depravity in human nature, only weakness and forgetfulness. Sin is failure to do the work of Allah . Salvation is earned by confessing the doctrines and practicing the pillars of the faith.</p>
<p><i>Judgment and Eternity:</i> Christianity teaches that Jesus Christ will administer the final judgment on mankind. Those who received Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and Lord, having depended upon His sacrificial death for the remission of sins, will go to heaven. (It is not by works)! Heaven is a place of worship and fellowship with God for eternity. Those who have not received Christ will go to hell, a place of eternal punishment.</p>	<p><i>Judgment and Eternity:</i> Islam is a religion by works. The Muslim, by striving to please Allah, will gain entrance to heaven through personal merit. On the Day of Judgment their good and evil deeds will be weighed on a scale. Those whom Allah judges to be true followers will be sent to heaven, a place of endless sensual pleasure. Those rejected by Allah will be sent to hell, a burning place of endless torment.</p>

## COMPARISON: GOD AND ALLAH

THE TRUE AND LIVING GOD	THE GOD OF THE MUSLIMS
<p><b>GOD LOVES SINNERS!</b>                      I John 4:8 . . . <i>God is love.</i>                      I John 4:10: <i>In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be an atoning sacrifice for our sins.</i></p>	<p>Allah loves not transgressors (Sura 2:190).                      Allah bears no love for the impious or sinful (2:276).                      God loves not the evil doers (3:57).                      God loves not arrogant and boastful men (4:36).</p>
<p><b>GOD IS NO RESPECTER OF PERSONS!</b>                      John 3:16: <i>For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him (Christian, Jew, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Shinto, New Age, Atheist, Animist, Tribal religion, etc.) should not perish, but have eternal life.</i></p>	<p>Islam has no Savior. Allah is said to have brought God's laws to men, and they, by keeping those laws, must satisfy God's requirements and win His approval. A Muslim facing death does not know whether he will go to paradise or hell. The decision is made by the arbitrary will of God and no one can predict what that decision will be.</p>
<p><b>GOD CAN BE KNOWN INTIMATELY.</b> He desires to reach every individual in the world with the truth of the gospel of Christ.                      I John 17:3: <i>And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.</i>                      I Tim 2:4: <i>Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.</i></p>	<p>It is impossible to be in relationship with Allah. He is distant and removed from creation and creatures. Not only is he personally unknowable; they do not know anything positive about him. He can lead astray those whom he chooses. He deceives and misguides those he chooses. The only human response to the god Allah must be total submission.</p>
<p><b>GOD MAKES AND KEEPS COVENANT WITH MAN.</b>                      Examples are: Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David, and the people of Israel. The Old Testament is actually the "Old Covenant," and the New Testament is the "New Covenant."</p>	<p>Allah does not make covenant. He is seen as separate and independent of creation and has no association with human beings. Muslims believe that Allah did not reveal himself but revealed only his will; his will is limited to Islamic law.</p>
<p><b>THROUGHOUT THE BIBLE THE CHARACTER OF GOD, HIS QUALITIES AND ATTRIBUTES ARE REVEALED.</b> He is a God of holiness, truth, long-suffering, impartiality and perfect justice.</p>	<p>There is little Muslim scholarship on the subject of Allah's essence and character. The basic relationship between Allah and humankind is Allah as Lord and humankind as slave servants.</p>
<p><b>GENESIS 1:27 TELLS US THAT MANKIND IS MADE IN THE IMAGE AND LIKENESS OF GOD.</b></p>	<p>Man is not created in Allah's image.</p>
<p><b>GOD IS THE FATHER OF THOSE WHO HAVE RECEIVED CHRIST AS LORD (Rom. 8:15).</b></p>	<p>Allah has no son and is above having such a relationship. He cannot be called Father.</p>
<p><b>GOD IS RICH IN MERCY (Eph. 2:4).</b></p>	<p>Allah is merciful.</p>

## COMPARISON: JESUS AND MUHAMMAD

JESUS	MUHAMMAD
Jesus' name means <i>God is Savior</i> , or <i>Immanuel</i> - meaning, <i>God with us</i> .	Muhammad's name means <i>praised one</i> .
Born about 4B.C. in Bethlehem. Born of the Virgin Mary (Isa. 7:14); had no earthly father (Matt. 1).	His father, Abdullah, died before his birth. His mother, Amina, gave birth to Muhammad in Mecca around 570 A.D.
Raised by His mother and Joseph, His stepfather.	His mother died when he was six. He was raised then by his uncle.
Prophesied by more than 300 scriptures for his first coming, fulfilled them all, including Deut. 18:15.	Muslims believe Muhammad is prophesied as the Comforter and that he is the prophet of Deut. 18:15.
He was skilled and worked as a carpenter in Nazareth like his stepfather.	His father was named Abd Allah after Allah. He started as a shepherd and then became a camel-caravan leader.
Was literate, but wrote no books. He directly commissioned his dedicated followers to write and preach his message.	Was considered illiterate. He believed he received the Qur'an from the angel Gabriel, which is considered a 'miracle.' Others heard Muhammad speak and wrote his sayings down over a period of years.
Attracted multitudes by His teachings about God, affirming the Old Testament. He taught openly to multitudes as one having authority.	Attracted multitudes by his teaching and by the sword, forcefully overthrowing the worship of multiple gods.
He performed miracles and healings freely. He healed all kinds of diseases and delivered people from demons.	The Qur'an is his miracle. He did no miracles of healing or delivering people from demons.
Moved to Capernaum because of rejection by his townspeople, brothers and sisters.	Had to move to Medina because of rejection by his townspeople.
He lived a sinless life and forgave others for their sins.	Prayed often for forgiveness of his sins, as did all the prophets of the Old and New Testaments.
Was never married.	Married to at least 15 wives. One was 6-7 years old and the marriage was consummated when she was 9.
He waged no war; rather He said His kingdom was not of this world so His followers should not fight.	He was a warrior who waged war by fighting or leading in sixty-six battles to spread his message.
Ordered the death of no one but He Himself died in place of the guilty.	Ordered the death of many men and women to promote the message of 'monotheism'.
Established a religion of truth, mercy and love even for His enemies. He invites all to come to Him.	He established a religion by works. Good and evil deeds are weighed by a scale.
Established a relationship with God and a spiritual kingdom not of this world that will last forever with Him as ruler.	Established a religion of God being compassionate and merciful to the obedient but there are no guarantees to anyone.